

From: Claire Mills

Planning Inspectorate ID No 20030250

16th August 2023

To: John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Dear Mr Wheadon,

I am writing as an interested party with reference to your letter dated 27th July 2023 to Sunnica Ltd and their response of the 10th August 2023.

I wish to comment on para No 4 BESS Design and HSC.

Although I live in East Sussex, I had always planned to move nearer to my family at the end of 2023 who happen to live within the area of the Sunnica proposal.

Therefore I have taken a keen interest in the Planning Inspectorate 6 month examination and have made a number of submissions.

I have concerns over the lack of detail and transparency by the Applicant as to the exact design of the 3 BESS locations. I have not seen any architect's visual displays or computer images to gauge how these 3 sites will affect the environment visually. What I have been told is the sub stations are 30 feet high and a concrete barrier has been mentioned for safety reasons of the same height.

I feel it is important that Sunnica should have, by the end of the 6 month Examination 28th March 2023, produced a final design for scrutiny by the public to comment on. I note from the Applicant's response that this final design will not be available until after the consent by the Secretary of State on 28th September 2023. I cannot agree to their statement and find it unsatisfactory from the residents' viewpoint.

The response also covers HSC and I note your questions put forward have not been answered by the Applicant.

BESS safety is of prime importance to the community following a spate of BESS fires and explosions globally. Therefore Sunnica should have worked with the ExA to demonstrate that they had covered the regulations of the appropriate Act before this point in time.

This omission, coupled with a lack of final design, gives no reassurance to the residents that they are safe and surely affects the decision that the Secretary of State will make in September.

It is noted that Pinsent Masons makes reference at the end of their letter to the Cleve Hill solar park decision on the 28th May 2020. As I live on the borders of Kent, I took a keen interest in that Application and feel more detail is appropriate if comparing this with the Sunnica proposal.

Although the ExA allowed the final design for the above solar park to be presented after the 28th May 2020, there were conditions imposed.

It is also worth mentioning the detailed reports by academics on the issue of BESS risks. These were from:

- G.R.E.A.T. The Campaign Group
- Dr Erasin
- Sir David Melville (Faversham Society)
- A Senior Partner at the local Doctors' surgery.

All the reports included the dangers of BESS installations and the chemicals produced when a fire happens which affect human health and also the effects of the toxic plumes. There was also a recommendation that BESS should be located 10 miles from any residential property.

The Applicant supplied their response from Leclanche but it is noted the ExA relied on that company's evidence and not that of the Academics. Four months after the 28th May 2020, the first BESS fire and explosion took place at Carnegie Road, Liverpool.

Therefore, this demonstrates the level of risk and the fact that Sunnica has to abide by the rules regarding HSC.

To summarise, it is clear Sunnica has failed to address the most important part of their development which is the BESS facility that will generate the highest profit from trading in electricity.

Yours sincerely

Claire Mills